has already been requested to complete the work by target date of completion of December, 1996.

(c) The overall improvement of the Ghat Section of NH-49 will be considered after completion of survey and investigation and subject to availability of funds. However, the road, including Ghat section, is being kept in traffic worthy condition with spot improvements and special repairs to accident prone reaches and bridges and culverts thereon.

(d) There is no proposal to rubberise this section of Natioanl Highway on an experimental basis.

सोशल ऑडिट पैनलों का गठन

2403. **श्री सोमपाल:** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के कार्यकरण की समीक्षा करने के लिए सोशल ऑडिट पैनल नियुक्त करने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) इन पैनलों की नियुक्त कब से प्रभावी होगी और ये कब से अपना कार्य आरम्भ कर देंगे?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री राजेश पायलट): (क) से (ग) पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय ने मंत्रालय की गतिविधियों की पुनरीक्षा करने तथा उपयुक्त सिफारिशें करने के लिए पहले ही एक सामाजिक लेखा-परीक्षा पैनल का गठन कर दिया है। यह पैनल मंत्रालय के कार्यक्रमों और परियोजनाओं के प्रति सामान्य जागरूकता और समर्थन का मूल्यांकन करेगा तथा आवश्यकता होने पर उपचारी कार्यवाई का सुझाव देगा ताकि इन्हें लोगों की अपेक्षाओं के अनुकूल बनाया जा सके और जन समर्थन एवं प्रतिभागिता जुटाई जा सके। यह पैनल मंत्रालय के लिए एक सलाहकार निकाय के रूप में कार्य करेगा।

Indo-Egypt Bilateral Cooperation

2404. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the subjects discussed with the President of Egypt during the Prime Minister's recent visit to that country; and

(b) the details of agreements signed with that country for bilateral cooperation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) During his visit to Egypt from October 15-16, 1995 Prime Minister discussed with the President of Egypt bilateral and international matters of mutual interest including ways and means to enhance trade and economic cooperation between India and Egypt, cooperation in science and technology, regional issues relating to South Asia and the Middle East new challenges before the international community such as terrorism, reform of the United Nations and the strengthening of the Non-Aligned Movement.

(b) Three agreements were signed during Prime Minister's visit to Egypt; on scientific and technological cooperation, on combating all forms of criminal acts, particularly terrorist, transnational and organised crimes, and on cooperation in the sphere of information. The agreement on cooperation in science and technology includes implementation of joint research and development projects, organisation of and participation in scinentific conferences, workshops, exhibitions etc., mutual use of R&D facilities and scientific equipment, organisation of joint scientific meetings and other forms of cooperation to be mutually agreed upon. The agreement on cooperation in the sphere of information is designed to encourage the dissemination of news and information on each other countries among their citizens through Press, News Agencies and other Information Media so as to reflect the various aspects of the social, economic and cultural life of the two countries. The implementation of this